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DEC 10 2024



APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENTS TO  
BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & AGENCIES OF  
ISABELLA COUNTY

ISABELLA COUNTY  
ADMINISTRATION

Name: James Karras Date: 12/10/2024

Address: 2876 West Wing Road (Deerfield Township) Mount Pleasant, MI 48858-7516  
(Street) (City) (Zip)

Email address: jimkarras@aol.com

Home phone: (989) 963-4255 Cell phone: (989) 506-7853 Other: ( )

Occupation: EMS Consultant / Small Business Owner Commissioner's District # 4

Please state, in order of preference, Committees or Commissions you are applying for:

1. 911 Advisory Board County Citizen Representtive
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Please state reason(s) for interest in above area(s):

I've enjoyed a 42 year career in emergency medical services managing large and small ambulance services in California and Texas and I've practiced as an emergency medical technician (EMT) since 1982.

**BACKGROUND:**

**Education and/or training:** I currently hold an EMT license in Michigan and EMT certification in California and previously I was a nationally registered EMT from 2006-2017 and a Texas EMT from 2005-2017.  
I also was a certified IAED ETC from 2006- 20014 with over 30 years of emergency medical dispatch experience.

**Previous civic or governmental involvement:**

I've served as an appointee by the board of supervisors on the Orange County (California) Emergency Medical Care Committee for over 10 years. I also served as chair of the Orange County Medical Transportation Committee for over nine years. Board member of Old Town Orange Preservation Association 2021-2024.

**What skills, talents, and abilities will you bring to this position?**

Decades of emergency dispatch experience, field EMS experience, operations management, systems design, budgeting, scheduling, financial analysis.

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**Other information you feel would be valuable in the review of your application:**

I've managed many emergency communication centers of all sizes in both Southern California, Northern California and Southeast Texas. I believe I can offer fresh perspective and support as needed.

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**Please list THREE references who have knowledge of your work ethic, experience and ability and your resume. (Please do not use currently elected County Commissioners as references)**

I am an incumbent: please use references currently on file.

Name: Paula Fisher

Occupation: Attorney

Address: 201 S University Ave, Mt Pleasant, MI 48858

Telephone Number: (989) 546-4102

Name: Mark Waldo

Occupation: Forensics Expert / Business Owner

Address: 1800 N. Bristol St. #425 Santa Ana, CA 92706

Telephone Number: (714) 488-1157

Name: Chad Druten

Occupation: Ambulance Executive

Address: 3200 E Birch Street, Ste A., Brea, CA

Telephone number: (626) 841-0915

**\* Applications must be complete to be considered \***

**ISABELLA COUNTY COMMISSION PROCEDURES FOR FILLING BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:**

1. Announcements of openings on Boards and Commissions will be posted online at [www.isabellacounty.org](http://www.isabellacounty.org).
2. Board members may, at their choosing, contact applicants prior to the Board meeting in order to more effectively assess applicant qualification.
3. At the Board meeting applicants may be nominated by any County Commissioner.
4. If there are multiple applicants nominated for the same position, a majority vote of members of the County Commission, present and voting, is required for appointment. If no candidate received a majority on the first vote, a second vote will be held. If after the second vote no candidate receives a majority of votes, the lowest vote getter will be dropped from consideration. This procedure will continue until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.
5. Applicants must reside in Isabella County.

**Return applications to the County Administrator's Office, 200 North Main Street, Mount Pleasant, Michigan 48858 or by email to [admin@isabellacounty.org](mailto:admin@isabellacounty.org). Questions please call: (989) 317-4054**

## Resume of James Nicholas Karras

2876 West Wing Road, Mount Pleasant, MI 48858-7516

(989) 963-4255 – home phone | (989) 528-8488 – home fax | (989) 506-7853 – mobile | JimKarras@aol.com – e-mail

### Experience and Background

Senior consultant and small business owner with over 42 years experience in emergency medical services, and ground transportation services operations. Possess a demonstrated record of building quality management teams and implementing process improvements. Expertise in managing and integrating operations, business development, medical billing, claims reimbursements, call centers, human resources, employee education, fleet management, government relations and contracting; proposal writing, and labor relations (*in union and non-union environments*). Collaborative, solutions-focused, and profit-oriented, with a mind for strategic planning for both long-term goals and short-term needs.

### Current Positions

#### *Senior Associate – EMS and Ambulance Services Specialist*

##### **Citygate Associates, LLC.**

600 Coolidge Drive, Suite 150, Folsom, CA 95630-4235 | Home Office: (989) 963-4255 | Email: jkarras@citygateassociates.com  
August 12, 2024 – Present

*Position Description:* Staff consultant assigned to the Fire/EMS section providing subject matter expertise related to EMS system design, resource staffing models, EMS reimbursement, policy development, and related business and operational analytics.

#### *Principal*

##### **The Karras Group**

2876 West Wing Road, Mount Pleasant, MI 48858-7516 | Office: (989) 963-4255 | Email: jkarras@thekarrasgroup.com  
December 20, 2005 – Present

*Position Description:* Owner of a consulting business that provides EMS consulting services to the private sector ambulance industry.

#### *Executive Director*

##### **Southern California Ambulance Association**

11278 Los Alamitos Blvd., Unit #925, Los Alamitos, CA 90720-3958 | Home Office: (989) 963-4255 | Email: jim.karras@scaa.net  
December 20, 2005 – Present

*Position Description:* Executive director of a regional trade association advocating for the private ambulance industry in Southern California. The association represents twenty-eight ambulance services operating approximately 1,200 licensed ambulances.

#### *Roles and Responsibilities of Positions Held for the Past 25 Years*

In the positions below, I served as vice president / chief operating officer (*or held a similar title*). I performed the following functions for each employer listed from November 1, 1999, to May 31, 2024.

- Directed and coordinated activities of various organization departments to obtain optimum efficiencies of operations to maximize profits by performing the following duties personally or through subordinate directors and managers.
- Planned, developed, and implemented organization policies and goals.
- Coordinated activities of divisions or departments to affect operational efficiency and economy.
- Directed and coordinated the promotion of services performed to develop new markets, and increase market share, to obtain a competitive position in the industry.
- Analyzed department budget requests to identify areas for reduction and allocations within the operating budget.
- Conferred with administrative team and reviewed activity, operating, and sales reports on programs and operations.
- Directed preparation of directives to department leaders outlining policy, program, or operations changes implemented.
- Represented and promoted the organization in industry, service, and trade associations.

### Past Positions

#### *Vice President and Chief Operating Officer*

##### **Rescue Services International, LTD. d.b.a. RSI/Medi-1 Ambulance / AmbuServe, Inc. d.b.a. Shoreline Ambulance**

15105 South Broadway Street, Gardena, CA 90248 | Office: (310) 644-0500

June 5, 2017 – May 31, 2024 | Reported to: Melissa Harris, President, and Chief Executive Officer

## Resume of James Nicholas Karras

*Vice President and Chief Operating Officer*

**AmeriCare MedServices, Inc. d.b.a. AmeriCare Ambulance Service**

1059 East Bedmar Street, Carson, CA 90746 | Office (310) 835-9390

September 24, 2012 – June 1, 2017 | Reported to: Michael S. Summers, President and Chief Executive Officer

*Vice President and General Manager, Member, Board of Directors, Executive Vice President*

**Priority One Medical Transport, Inc. (Southern and Northern California Operations)**

**Priority Care Medical Transport (Texas Operation)**

**Priority One Towing and Recovery (Southern California Operation)**

740 South Rochester Avenue, Suite E, Ontario, CA 91761 | Office 1-(800) 550-4869

January 17, 2005 – September 21, 2012 | Reported to: Michael D. Parker, President and Chief Executive Officer

*General Manager*

**Emergency Ambulance Service, Inc.**

3200 East Birch Street, Suite A, Brea, CA 92821-6258 | Office: (714) 990-1742

November 1, 1999 – November 22, 2004 | Reported to: Philip E. Davis, President

*Regional Manager*

**Schaefer Ambulance Service, Inc.**

4627 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA, 90004 | Office: (323) 468-1600

March 22, 1982 – October 31, 1999 | Reported to: Jim McNeal, President

Other Positions Held at Schaefer Ambulance Service:

- Regional Manager – Orange County Division, 1989 - 1999
- Regional Manager – San Diego County Division, 1995 - 1999
- Field Supervisor – Pomona Division, 1987 – 1988
- Public Relations Officer – Pomona Division, 1988 - 1989
- Program Director (CPR) – Pomona Division, 1988 - 1989
- Communications Dispatcher – Pomona Division, 1985 - 1987
- Emergency Medical Technician – 1A – Driver/Attendant, 1982 – 1987

### Academic Background

*John A. Rowland High School*

Rowland Heights, CA | 1975 - 1979

Diploma of Graduation

*Rio Hondo Community College*

Whittier, CA | 1979 - 1981

Emergency Medical Technician Certification / Hardwood Floor Layer Apprenticeship

### Licenses, Certificates and Registrations

- *California Emergency Medical Technician* - Certification No. E021902 - August 1981 – Present
- *California Emergency Medical Technician* - License No. PENDING - August 2024 – Present
- *Texas Emergency Medical Technician* - Certification No. 700206 - October 2006 – March 31, 2016
- *Registered Emergency Medical Technician* - No. B1797706 - National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians - December 2006 – March 31, 2016
- *National Safety Council - Coaching the Emergency Ambulance Operator Course III* – July 15, 2013 – AmeriCare Ambulance Service Training Center - Carson, CA
- *Ambulance Strike Team / Medical Task Force Leader Certification* - No. A-00071 – CA EMS Authority – January 03, 2013 – 21
- *National Safety Council - Coaching the Emergency Ambulance Operator II Course* – March 10, 2009 – Priority One Medical Transport Training Center - Ontario, CA
- *Emergency Telecommunicator Course Certificate* - National Academies of Emergency Dispatch – October 16, 2008
- *HazMats Response – Awareness Level Course Certificate* - No. 283232 – Michigan State University – October 01, 2013
- *WMD Standardized Awareness Training Program (AWR-160)* – FEMA Center for Domestic Preparedness – March 25, 2008

## Resume of James Nicholas Karras

- *IS-00800.A National Response Plan (NRP) Introduction* – FEMA Emergency Management Institute – November 12, 2006
- *IS-00700 National Incident Management System (NIMS) Introduction* – FEMA Emergency Management Institute – September 18, 2006
- *ICS I-300 Intermediate ICS* – September 10, 2006 – California State Fire Marshal Fire Training
- *ICS I-200 Basic ICS* – September 7, 2006 – California State Fire Marshal Fire Training
- *ICS I-100 Introduction to ICS* – September 7, 2006 – California State Fire Marshal Fire Training
- *NAEMSE Level 1 EMS Educators Course* March 10-13, 2005 - National Association of EMS Educators - Irvine, CA
- *National Safety Council - Coaching the Emergency Ambulance Operator Course* - April 08, 1993 - San Bernardino Co. Sheriff's Dept. Academy Training Center - Devore, CA
- *Emergency Vehicle Operations Course for the Ambulance Operator* - April 08, 1993 - San Bernardino Co. Sheriff's Dept. Academy Training Center – Devore, CA
- *Orange County EMT-1 Preceptor Program Orientation Training Course* - February 12, 1993  
Rancho Santiago College - Santa Ana, CA
- *Introduction to Fleet Maintenance* - June 22, 1992 - AzStar Center for Safety and Risk Management - Anaheim, CA
- *Driver's Safety Program* - June 22, 1992 - AzStar Center for Safety and Risk Management - Anaheim, CA
- *Hazardous Materials Course Operations Level Certification* - November 16, 1991 - AzStar Center for Safety and Risk Management - Anaheim, CA
- *Introduction to Field Management* - September 02, 1990 - AzStar Center for Safety and Risk Management - Anaheim, CA
- *BLS Provider CPR Instructor's Course* - May 11, 1988 - American Heart Association, Los Angeles Chapter - Los Angeles, CA
- *Emergency Medical Technician - One Certification Course* - August 16, 1981 - Rio Hondo College - Whittier, CA

## Professional Affiliations and Memberships

- Executive Director, Southern California Ambulance Association – June 18, 2024 – Present
- Vice President, Southern California Ambulance Association - January 2024 – May 31, 2024
- Director, Old Town Preservation Association, Orange, CA – January 2021 – Present
- Chair, California Ambulance Association Human Resources Collaborative Committee - January 2022 – May 31, 2024
- Member, National Association of EMS Educations - March 2005 – Present
- Member, National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians - July 2005 – July 2011
- Member, Orange County Political Affairs Association - January 2001 – December 2023
- Member, California Council of EMS Educators - March 1999 – June 2016
- Director, Ambulance Association of Orange County - July 1989 – December 2023
- Member, Los Angeles County Ambulance Association - January 2008 – December 2023
- Chair, Orange County EMS Medical Transportation Committee - July 2010 – December 2020 / January 2022 – May 2024
- Member, Orange County EMCC Medical Transportation Advisory Committee - July 1993 – May 31, 2024
- Member, Orange County Emergency Medical Care Committee - July 2015 – June 2020 / July 1997 – June 2002 – May 2024
- Member, Los Angeles County EMSC Education Advisory Committee - January 2006 - 2022
- Vice Chair, California Council of EMS Educators - January 2004 – December 2010
- Vice Chair, Orange County EMCC Education & Training Task Group - July 1995 – June 2005
- Member, California Ambulance Association - January 2001 – December 2006 / January 2020 – May 31, 2024
- Member, Orange County Healthcare Agency Preparedness Council - January 2002 – November 2005
- Member, Rancho Santiago College EMT-1 Program Advisory Committee - April 1994 – November 2004
- Member, North Orange County ROP EMT-1 Program Advisory Committee - January 1992 – November 2004
- Member, Orange Coast College EMT-1 Program Advisory Committee - April 1990 – November 2004
- President, Ambulance Association of Orange County - January 1997 - December 2003
- Vice President, San Diego County Ambulance Association - January 1997 - December 1997
- Member, San Diego County Ambulance Association - June 1995 – December 2011
- Member, Orange County EMCC Disaster Advisory Committee - July 1994 – December 1996
- Member, Long Beach City College EMT-1 Program Advisory Committee - March 1993 - October 1999